



Ninety-Ninth Legislature - First Session - 2005
Introducer's Statement of Intent
LB 627

Chairperson: Ron Raikes
Committee: Education
Date of Hearing: February 14, 2005

The following constitutes the reasons for this bill and the purposes which are sought to be accomplished thereby:

Bullying is found to disrupt a school's ability to educate students and threatens public safety by creating an atmosphere in which bullying can escalate into more serious violence. LB 627 would require school districts to adopt policies regarding bullying by July 1, 2006.

The district policy would have to include:

- (a) complaint procedures for victims of bullying and staff responsibility in bullying complaints,
- (b) specific sanctions for perpetrators of bullying,
- (c) conspicuous posting of the policy throughout each building of the district, placement of the policy in each student handbook on school policies, and
- (d) other strategies for annually notifying students, parents, and employees of the policy adopted under this section.

For purposes of the bill bullying is defined as any written or verbal expression, physical act, or gesture or a pattern thereof that is intended to cause distress upon one or more students on school grounds or at school events that is based on a student's actual or perceived identity with regard to race, color, national origin, gender, gender identity and expression, religion, sexual orientation, or a mental, physical, or sensory handicap or any other distinguishing characteristics or on the basis of association with others identified by such characteristics.

Principal Introducer:

Senator Gwen Howard